

REMARKS

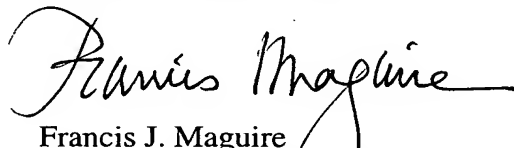
This Amendment in an RCE is filed after receipt of the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed on January 27, 2009. The time period for filing an Appeal Brief has been reset to one month from the mailing date of the Decision which ends on February 27, 2009.

In the final action dated August 21, 2008 it was indicated that claims 13 and 34-38 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have without prejudice decided to amend the claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and it is believed that the amended claims are now in condition for allowance.

The objections and rejections of the final Office Action of August 21, 2008, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-33 to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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